

# Region 3

## Great Lakes - Big Rivers

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### *Annual Report Fiscal Year 1998*





# Fiscal Year 1998 Annual Report *Table of Contents*

---

Introduction.....	ii
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Region 3 Ecosystem Map.....	iii
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Midwest Natural Resources Group.....	1
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## Ecosystems

Great Lakes Basin.....	1-3
Lower Missouri River.....	2-37
Mississippi Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie.....	3-55
Ohio River Valley.....	4-103
Ozark Watershed.....	5-123
Upper Mississippi River/Tallgrass Prairie.....	6-133

## Programs

Budget and Administration.....	7-177
Ecological Services.....	8-185
External Affairs.....	9-225
Federal Aid.....	10-233
Fisheries.....	11-241
Human Resources.....	12-275
Law Enforcement.....	13-279
Refuges and Wildlife.....	14-289



# Introduction



Bill Hartwig  
Regional Director

The numerous accomplishments in this report are a tribute to the dedication and commitment to the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the men and women in Region 3.

As I read this report, I feel tremendous pride in both the quality and number of our achievements. Many of these successes were made through cross-program efforts, cross-agency efforts, through partnerships (both inside and outside of our agency), and because of your considerable focus on ecosystem management concepts. You have proven once again that we are at our best when we work shoulder to shoulder together and with others who are equally committed to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats.

In the past year, we have strategically pioneered unique and innovative efforts and successfully managed an array of high visibility issues. We have lead the way in the development of the Midwest Natural Resources Group and its focus areas, the Mississippi River Basin Partnership, the Accomplishment Reporting System, "Resource Conservation Priorities", and we have contributed in large measure to the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. We have been leaders in such areas as aquatic nuisance species, migratory birds, habitat conservation planning, Northern Tallgrass Prairie, comprehensive conservation planning, many areas of Federal Aid, Law Enforcement, Natural Resource Damage Assessments (especially on the Fox River and Saginaw Bay), trumpeter swan migration, and our ecosystem teams are among the best in the nation.

We have made much headway on the ground and in our watersheds as well, on such projects as Grand Kankakee Marsh, Illinois River, Big Muddy National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Ottawa River, cormorant predation, Red River, Cane Ridge Management Area, Halfway Creek Marsh, proposed Whittlesy Creek, Darby Creek and Aldo Leopold National Wildlife Refuges, Pool 8 (Upper Mississippi River) and Wisconsin's Highway 12. In addition, we have begun work on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge; as well as the many faceted, multi-regional celebration of the Lewis and Clark Anniversary.

In the area of endangered species, we have the lead for two of the most public identifiable species in this country: the American bald eagle, and the grey wolf. We have accomplished significant work as well with such other species as the piping plover, Lake Erie watersnake, lake sturgeon, Henslow's sparrow, scaleshell mussel, Indiana bat, Missouri Bladderpod, Canada lynx, Eastern massasauga watersnake, Karner blue butterfly, and the Illinois cave amphipod. Additionally, we have strengthened our external affairs capabilities. We have focused more in-depth, and positively on our relationships with tribal governments, the media, and Members of Congress and their staffs and have made great strides overall in our outreach efforts. We have stabilized our organization through strengthening geographic and programmatic responsibilities and accountability. Additionally, we have raised awareness, and have developed innovative recruitment methods, for increasing diversity in our workforce.

Our efforts this past year have been remarkable. We have hit our stride. Even so, I believe that in 1999, we are on an exciting road to exceeding the achievements of 1998. We have set a new and unparalleled standard of excellence that will firmly enable us to meet the complex environmental demands and challenges of the new century. You are the most talented, innovative, hard driving, and well-trained workforce I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I sincerely congratulate you all for a job well done.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Region 3 Ecosystem Map



Office Key	
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span>	Ecological Services Office (ES)
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Private Lands Office (PLO)
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Wetland Mgmt. District (WMD)
<span style="color: purple;">●</span>	National Fish Hatchery (NFH)
<span style="color: purple;">●</span>	Fishery Resource Office (FRO)
<span style="color: purple;">●</span>	Sea Lamprey Control (SLC)
<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	Law Enforcement Office (LE)

Ecosystem Key	
<span style="background-color: #FFB6C1; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Mississippi Headwaters/Tallgrass Prairie
<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Great Lakes
<span style="background-color: #FFDAB9; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Upper Mississippi River/Tallgrass Prairie
<span style="background-color: #FFDAB9; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Lower Missouri River
<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Ohio River Valley
<span style="background-color: #D3D3D3; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Lower Mississippi River
<span style="background-color: #D2B48C; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Ozark Watersheds
<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>	Arkansas/Red Rivers

Geographic Areas		
<span style="background-color: #FFB6C1; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Area 1	<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Area 2	<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Area 3
Wisconsin Michigan Ohio	Missouri Illinois Indiana	Minnesota Iowa